

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 29, 33, 38 and 43 have been amended. Claims 45 and 46 have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 29-44 are presented for examination.

Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that this rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claim 46.

Claims 29, 31, 32, 43 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Shima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,964). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Shima.

Shima discloses a controlling application utilizes existing handle objects to reconfigure objects to dynamically enumerate and represent devices coupled to a serial bus network after a bus reset event. Preferably, the serial bus network is an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. During a self-identifying process, after the bus reset, information about the characteristics of the devices within the network is received. From this self-identifying information objects representing the devices are generated. Existing handle objects from a previous bus configuration are then compared to these objects. If a handle matches an object, then a pointer value within the handle is changed to point to an address of the object. Preferably, a handle includes a 64 bit unique identifier value that is compared to the objects to find a match. For devices removed from the network, the handle object is preferably never discarded but is made invalid. For devices added to the network, existing invalid handle objects are preferably re-validated and attached to objects representing devices. If there are

no further existing handles and a device does not yet have an attached handle, then a handle is generated and attached to the device. See Shima at Abstract.

Claim 29 of the present application recites a network including a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus. Applicant submits that there is no disclosure in Shima of a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus. Thus, claim 29 is patentable over Shima. Claims 30-32 depend from claim 29 and include additional features. Therefore, claims 30-32 are also patentable over Shima.

Independent claims 33, 38 and 43 each recite a limitation analogous to “a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus,” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claims 33, 38 and 43, and their respective dependent claims are also patentable over Shima.

Claims 29-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Fujimori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,854). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Fujimori.

Fujimori discloses an electronic network including two buses that are coupled together via a bridge. Bus 24 is coupled to three nodes, nodes 10, 12 and 14, and bus 26 is coupled to four nodes, nodes 16, 18, 20 and 22. Each node is considered to be a general purpose computer, buses 24 and 26 are considered to be IEEE-1394 buses, and the bridge is considered to be an IEEE-1394 bridge. See Fujimori at Figure 2. However, Fujimori does not disclose a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus. Therefore, the present claims are patentable over Fujimori.

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,964) in view of “IEEE Standard for a High Performance Serial

Bus" to IEEE. Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Shima even in view of IEEE.

IEEE discloses busses coupled via a bridge. Nonetheless, IEEE does not disclose or suggest a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus. As discussed above, Shima does not disclose or suggest a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus. Thus, any combination of Shima and IEEE would not disclose or suggest a non-1394 network coupled to a 1394 bus. As a result, that the present claims are patentable over Shima in view of IEEE.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 1/29/07

Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980